



## ***State of Louisiana***

### **DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER**

**M. J. "MIKE" FOSTER, JR.**  
GOVERNOR

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COMMISSIONER OF ADMINISTRATION

### **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **STATE EMBARKS ON EXCITING NEW PROCUREMENT PROCESS**

*Baton Rouge* — Cost savings and a smoother, more efficient process for procuring the state's IT consulting services are on the way. The Office of Information Technology (OIT) will soon announce its award for the Application Development/Database Development and Project Management portion of the Consulting and Support Services Agreement (CSSA) RFP. Released on April 29, 2002 to mixed reviews from the vendor community, the RFP generated the largest response in the state's history with 135 companies answering the proposal and was ranked 3rd in the nation in terms of responses. Ultimately, it will qualify the "best of the best" tech companies for a total of 60 vendors to assist state agencies in planning, analyzing, designing, implementing, maintaining and supporting their technology needs.

"It wasn't easy coming up with a solution that everyone would be happy with but I'm pleased. I asked for a competitive, streamlined procurement process and now I have one," said Foster. "This is great news."

In an effort to improve services to the public, most agencies are supporting online resources available 24-7 and they need a flexible means of getting quality IT services quickly. Before establishing the CSSA process, agencies had to submit an individual RFP, wait for companies to respond, evaluate their responses and then award the contract. In most instances, this could take up to 6 months or longer. With the new process, work can begin as soon as 30 days because the first tier of the CSSA provides agencies with a "pre qualified" list of companies that have already met a standard set of criteria. An agency wishing to hire a company for consulting services need only submit a statement of work (SOW) to the CSSA list and can even stipulate their own timeframe. In addition, approved vendors can hire sub contractors that are not on the CSSA—providing smaller, local companies the opportunity to work with the state.

An evaluation committee comprised of IT managers from across several state agencies was formed to review the proposals and select vendors based on technical and cost criteria. Dubbed the “top ten list”, the final CSSA list will be comprised of 10 consultants from a total of 6 categories:

- Application and Database Development/Project Planning and Management,
- Web Development
- Security Administration
- Disaster Recovery
- Network Administration/Desktop Support/Help Desk/Non-Mainframe Class Servers
- Mainframe Class Server Technical Support

Chief Information Officer Chad McGee remains confident that once the vendor list is in place, the IT procurement process will be successful. “I and my staff have worked hard to develop a strategy that works on as many levels as possible and keeps the process fair and smooth. Moreover, we’ve managed to create a new process that does not preclude the old one—a state agency wishing to conduct a traditional RFP process that includes companies not on the CSSA may do so.”

The Office of Information Technology provides strategic direction and coordination of information technology operations, programs, activities, and services for all the executive departments, agencies, entities, offices, boards, and/or commissions in the executive branch operating under the authority of the governor. For more information regarding the OIT and/or the CSSA, go to [www.infolouisiana.com/oit/index.htm](http://www.infolouisiana.com/oit/index.htm).

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